

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

Please refer to your instructions prior to completing the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Recovery Act Local Plan.

Submit To:

Department of Community Services and Development
Attention: Community Services Division
P.O. Box 1947
Sacramento, CA 95812-1947

Section I - Agency Information

Agency	Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (FCEOC)
Address	1920 Mariposa Mall, Suite 300
City	Fresno, CA 93721

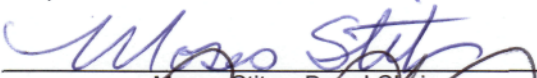
Agency Contact Person Regarding CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

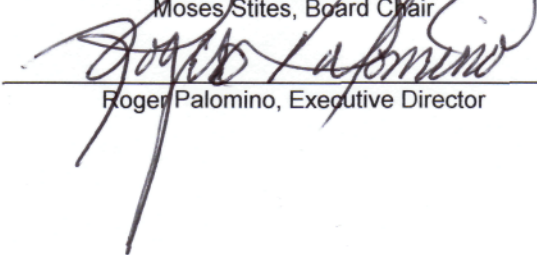
Contact Person	Dennis Bachelor
Title	Project Analyst
Phone	559-263-1000
Fax	559-263-1009
E-mail Address	dennis.bachelor@fresnoec.org

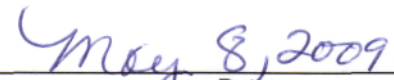
Section II - Certification

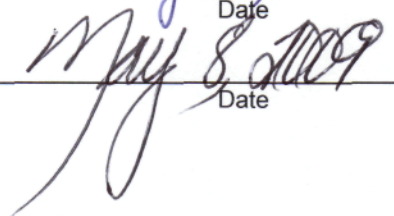
- 1 As a part of the efforts to ensure transparency and accountability, the Recovery Act requires Federal agencies and grantees to track and report separately on expenditures from funds made available through the stimulus bill. Please check to acknowledge that your agency is aware of this requirement and has the capacity to track CSBG Recovery Act program activities and expenditures separately from all other CSBG or other funding, including activities and expenditures carried out by delegate agencies and other service providers supported by subcontracts under Recovery Act funding.

The undersigned hereby certify that this agency complies with the requirements of this CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan and the information in this plan is correct and authorized.


Moses Stites, Board Chair


Roger Palomino, Executive Director


Date


Date

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

Section III - DUNS Number

Provide your agency's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. If your agency has not registered, do so and provide the number below.

DUNS Number 078788023

Section IV - CCR Number

Provide your agency's Central Contractor Registration (CCR) number. If your agency has not registered, do so and provide the number below.

CCR Number 4ADN7

Section V - Verification of Public Inspection

Provide verification of public inspection of your agency's CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan. Documentation of public inspection must also be provided, (i.e. copy of web page, e-mail blasts, etc.)

A) Describe how your agency made this Local Plan available for public inspection.

This Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission's (FCEOC) local plan is available on its website which can be found at www.fresnoeoc.org. The website is available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To access the local plan, enter "www.fresnoeoc.org" or copy and paste the address into your internet browser's address field and press "ENTER." Your browser will direct you to the FCEOC homepage where information on FCEOC's "CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan" can be found. You may also request a hard copy by calling Dennis Bachelor at 559-263-1000 or by visiting our administrative office located at 1920 Mariposa Mall, Suite 300 in downtown Fresno. A screen shot of the aforementioned web page is included in the attachments.

Section VI - General Plans

For each question in this section, provide a comprehensive narrative of what plans you have made to date.

A) Provide a description of Recovery Act projects for purposes of creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities. Include a description of targeted individuals and families; services and activities; and how the services and activities are tailored to the specific needs of the community.

FCEOC proposes a hybrid approach for creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities. Its projects include collaboration and partnership with its subsidiaries the Fresno Community Development Financial Institution (Fresno CDFI) and Enterprise Plus Economic Development Center Inc. (ePLUS).

The Fresno CDFI contributes directly to the creation of jobs by investing in local businesses and small farmers. In short, it makes credit available to entrepreneurs, primarily the low-income and un-bankable, for the start-up, strengthening and/or expansion of their small businesses thereby allowing those entrepreneurs to become self-employed. This often leads to additional employment opportunities for family members and/or other members of the community served by the business. For many of the businesses, the injection of funds for working capital allows them to retain current employees who otherwise might have been laid off or create new full and part-time jobs. Fresno CDFI also offers an asset building program where eligible small farmers, ranchers and other food value-added entrepreneurs enroll in its Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) Program for the purpose of saving towards an asset goal by receiving a two-to-one (2:1) matching grant. The individual's savings and his/her matching grants can be utilized to off-set the cost of technical training and/or other post-secondary educational expenses that will lead to long-term employment opportunities or business sustainability.

The Fresno CDFI low income target population represents those who historically have been unable to secure traditional credit to purchase assets such as a home or business because of a lack of savings for cash injection, lack of sufficient income to support payments, or poor credit history. In many cases a local lender may believe that the client has the potential to retire the debt successfully, but because of lending criteria, cannot make the loan. The need for credit, capital and financial services in the county is significant.

Enterprise Plus Economic Development Center, Inc. (ePLUS) is a private non-profit, locally initiated, community development corporation set up by FCEOC in 1992 to assist low-income residents to build family economic self-sufficiency through job creation and business development. Enterprise Plus plans to use ARRA funds to provide economic development to low and moderate income people in urban and rural areas of Fresno County. By creating new marketing, grant-writing and financial analyst positions, ePLUS will, in collaboration with FCEOC and Fresno CDFI, work with businesses in the community to provide employment opportunities for recently displaced workers by enhancing their skills or retraining them for industries and commercial/farming establishments that exhibit signs of sustained growth during these difficult economic times.

The target population to receive the majority of Fresno CDFI and ePLUS services is low income — particularly those households who are at or below 80% of the area's median family income as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In Fresno County, 50.7 % of the households have incomes between 0 and 80% of the area's median income of \$47,000 and 60.7% spend more than 30% of their household income on housing. A shocking 13.2% spend greater than 50% of household income on housing costs. Based upon the estimated 2006 US Census, approximately 157,867 (57%) of Fresno County's 277,256 households could qualify for CDFI services under this income criteria. However, due to recent and current economic conditions, FCEOC and its contractors expect to serve many community members outside of this targeted population, namely those who recently been displaced or lost their jobs due to business closures and/or downsizing.

B) Provide a description of the service delivery system for Recovery Act projects for purposes of providing a wide range of innovative services and activities. Include a description of the geographical area served.

FCEOC's products and development services focus on the provision of job creation and retention, business financing and asset building. Therefore its primary outreach activities center on job training and placement, business technical assistance, business loans and individual development accounts (IDAs) for low-income families and/or individuals. As such, this project will provide immediate (and low-cost) access to more than 200 low-income clients annually. In addition, FCEOC will market its products and development services through a variety of means, including: distributing brochures and flyers, relying on word of mouth advertising through its field staff and rural contractors, linkages with community partners, including the local Workforce Investment Board, Small Business Development Centers, local level Economic Development organizations, banks and other financial institutions.

Other methods for FCEOC to deliver its products and development services to its target market include: public service announcements, a media campaign (newspaper advertisements, newspaper articles, etc.); and distributing information to participants of its existing 170,000 clients. The FCEOC marketing, outreach and delivery methods follow:

- Strategic Partnerships. FCEOC leverages its relationships with Fresno CDFI and ePLUS partners and collaborators such as City and County of Fresno, California State University—Fresno, Valley Small Business Development Corporation (the only other certified CDFI in

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

Fresno County), Lao Family Community of Fresno, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM), By Design Financial Solutions, Fresno Housing Authorities and others that serve the same market.

- Grassroots Marketing. Partners and collaborators circulate multi-lingual flyers and brochures in areas with large minority concentrations and in low-income housing complexes and neighborhoods.
- Mass Media. Partners and collaborators advertise in ethnic magazines, newspapers, radio, and television. The Fresno CDFI through the FCEOC website that also makes potential clients aware of its services.
- Alumni Relations and Referrals. Partners and collaborators maintain personal contact with clients through its quarterly client newsletters.

FCEOC, Fresno CDFI and ePLUS have ethnically and socially sensitive staff comprised of people with experience working with low-income individuals. Some of the staff members come from low-income families, are former refugees and/or small business owners, and understand the challenges faced by our clients. In fact, Fresno CDFI's curriculum for micro-entrepreneurs was shaped through 14 years of classroom training and is tailored to the target clients. The business materials are user friendly and do not assume prior business knowledge. Fresno CDFI will require that all microenterprise loan recipients receive classroom training and/or one-on-one consultation with a Fresno CDFI staff person/consultant. The following development services comprise the support provided to our borrowers.

Microenterprise Development Training. It will be a requirement of Fresno CDFI that all business and microenterprise loan recipients attend comprehensive microenterprise training or receive one on one consultation with a staff person/consultant (or prove completion of an approved alternate business planning training). The development services provided by Fresno CDFI to its borrowers and potential borrowers will consist of formal classroom training and individual consultation.

Classroom Training. Fresno CDFI will provide formal microenterprise training using a curriculum refined over the past fourteen years for use specifically with low-income clients and individuals with little or no business exposure. It is designed to help clients develop the skills, capacity, and resources they need to develop a solid business plan, acquire business financing, and start/operate a small business. It is comprised of thirteen weeks of group training (13 three hour workshops). Course topics include: entrepreneurship, personal financial management, idea feasibility, the business planning process, marketing, bookkeeping, employment practices, and business operation.

Fresno CDFI also offers its classroom training in rural areas through the Rural Microenterprise Program. In rural communities, classroom instruction consists of an 11-week program taught by independent contractors who have self-employment and rural development experience.

- **Individual Technical Assistance and Consultation.** Fresno CDFI and ePLUS will provide individual technical assistance and consultation services to clients at two stages: pre-loan (during and following formal training) and post-award.
- **Pre-loan Technical Assistance** will educate the client on the requirements of the loan application and identify areas in which the client may need additional research or information to prepare their business plan.
- **Post-Award Technical Assistance.** Fresno CDFI will provide individual business counseling to help borrowers deal with challenges of self-employment/business ownership and will serve as a crisis intervention strategy to reduce likelihood of default. This may involve, depending upon client need, refining business plans and marketing strategies; developing cash flow statements and Balance Sheet

statements, and other financial statements; and dealing with employees, taxes, and growth.

Loan Preparation and Packaging Services (Access to Business Capital). Fresno CDFI's experienced business trainers will meet individually with participants to determine their financing needs and to help them prepare grant/loan documents. The packaging and access to capital service will focus largely on helping potential borrowers access its financing services.

Other Development Services. Since, Fresno CDFI elects to offer financial products in different areas (i.e., home purchase or community facilities construction/acquisition), it will work with existing and new community partners to provide development services. For example, through its countywide in-house Individual Development Account Program, it is able to grant clients access to home ownership counseling by connecting them with our credit counseling and financial partners. Fresno CDFI also conducts Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) workshops in order to help clients increase their liquidity and savings toward long-term assets.

As an important adjunct to its development services system, Fresno CDFI and ePLUS will regularly test its curriculum for the microenterprise program, through soliciting client input and conducting client assessments of the course content. Based upon this input and other learning from the microenterprise field, a major revision of our curriculum has been completed, and it is now a substantially different product than the one first offered fourteen years ago by Fresno EOC. The new CDFI plans to continue this concentrated look at its performance and relevance, and Fresno EOC, with its reputation for excellent program evaluation, will be assisting in the set up of evaluation and feedback loops in order to be as responsive to clients as possible.

Strategy for Sustaining Services. As part of the initial two-year organizational development of Fresno CDFI (supported through non-federal resources of FCEOC and charitable contributions to Fresno CDFI), we will develop a comprehensive fundraising and resource development strategy. This strategy will include provisions for:

- **Project Income.** As part of the development of our financing services and products, we will project earned income from our provision of financing services.
- **Charitable Contributions from Corporations.** Fresno CDFI will work with corporations (including community and national banks) to successfully acquire charitable contributions and project-related investments in our financing services and general operations.
- **Charitable Contributions from Individuals.** We will approach individuals who are committed to supporting low-income business development within Fresno County and beyond to seek their financial support.
- **Grants.** Fresno CDFI will develop a comprehensive grant seeking strategy, consisting of federal, state, and local government funds and foundation/corporate grants. We will use FCEOC's forty-two years of successful grant seeking experience to develop our grants program and a reasonable projection of income from these sources.
- **Other Resources.** We will fully investigate other resources that will facilitate the financial development of Fresno CDFI, including (but not limited to): fees for providing technical assistance and services to other organizations; in-kind resources from community-based organizations and our parent company; donations of equipment, supplies, and other materials (i.e. printing, advertising, space) necessary to the conduct of Fresno CDFI's business.

C) Describe how your agency will use Recovery Act funds to meet the short-term and long-term economic and employment needs of individuals, families and communities.

FCEOC will collaborate and partner with its subsidiaries, the Fresno CDFI and ePLUS, to provide businesses with capital financing for sustainability in order to retain current workers and to create job opportunities for additional workers, and job training and placement services to boost morale and household income for

individuals, families and their communities.

D) Provide a description of how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in services through the provision of information, referrals, case management and follow up consultations.

Face-to-face meetings, conference calls with local partners to establish linkages and identify gaps in services. Participants include Employment & Training Directors and Managers, Fresno CDFI CEO and Manager, ePLUS administrators, & others.

E) Provide a description of how Recovery funds will be coordinated with other public and private resources, to avoid duplication and/or supplanting.

FCEOC's Employment and Training Department is under contract by the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to provide employment and training services to the unemployed or under-employed. Benefits to participants include job training; access to online job searches; resume assistance; job placement and other supported services such as transportation assistance; financial assistance for uniforms, boots, tools and other equipment required the employer, etc. Both the Fresno CDFI and ePLUS will coordinate with FCEOC's Employment and Training Department to avoid duplication and/or supplanting of services and seek to utilize the ARRA funds to fill gaps not covered by funds from the WIB. Additionally, FCEOC and its contractors will work with the WIB and other local service providers to ensure that its activities and those of the Fresno CDFI and ePLUS do not conflict with each other.

F) Provide a description of how the funds will be used to support innovative community and neighborhood based initiatives related to the purposes of the Recovery Act, which promotes food, housing, health services and employment-related services and activities.

FCEOC is a partner in the Central Valley's Regional Jobs Initiative (RJI) whose goals were to:

- Fundamentally transform the approach to economic development in the San Joaquin Valley;
- Diversify the Valley's economy, while retaining its core agricultural base; and
- Create 30,000 net new non-farm jobs in the Fresno MSA over the five year period (2004 -2008).

Although, the RJI fell short of expectations having created only 17,100 in twelve non-farm industry clusters, the business leaders and participating partners decided to keep going. A strong collaboration among businesses, education and government is vital to the success of the RJI. As a partner, FCEOC intends to continue supporting the RJI by making its employment and training, financing and asset building programs available to RJI partners and collaborators; and seek to divert its human and financial resources to fill identified gaps in services where possible.

FCEOC was a past recipient of the Refugee Rural Initiative (RRI) grants, funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, designed to improve access to institutional markets for disadvantaged refugee small farmers in the Central Valley and to include them in the local food shed. The main objective was to improve small farm income for the refugee small farmers and promote consumption of healthy, fresh and locally grown food among low-income families and individuals who suffer from obesity, malnutrition and other hunger related illnesses. The success of this project has led to funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to continue a Food-To-Institution project that is currently in its second year of operation; an individual development accounts program exclusively for small farmers, ranchers and food value-added entrepreneurs (the largest of its kind in the country), also funded by the Kellogg Foundation; and a farmers market initiative that is tied to food stamps EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer), Senior WIC and new WIC fresh fruits and vegetables vouchers programs. FCEOC will launch its first certified farmers market on May 13, 2009 and establish a second similar market by September 2009. These certified Farmers Markets will give the disadvantaged minority small famers an alternative outlet for their produce and provide low-income families with access to affordable and locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

Affordable housing is a concern that FCEOC is looking for ways to address with its limited resources. It is discussing ways in which it can partner with the local Housing Authority, private banks, the No Homeowner Left Behind initiative, and the City and County growth plans to best allocate resources.

G) Provide a description of the community-needs assessment (which may be coordinated with community-needs assessments conducted for other programs).

FCEOC holds bi-annual public hearings in which the general public and local interest groups are invited to participate in identifying community needs, gaps in services and ways to improve service delivery. At these public hearings, the public also get to engage the 24-Member FCEOC Board of Commissioners and staff and are given opportunities to actively participate in the planning sessions and provide comments on its general plan. Those unable to attend the public hearing may choose to submit questions and/or comments online by visiting our website at www.fresnoeoc.org. All questions and comments are carefully considered for incorporation into the needs assessment report, general plan and other strategic plans. Additionally, at anytime outside of these public hearings, the general public may submit comments through our website or by completing forms available through any of its programs.

H) Provide a description of the service delivery system for benefit enrollment coordination activities for purposes of identifying and enrolling eligible individuals and families in Federal, State, and local benefit programs. Include a description of the geographical area served and a listing of sub-grantees provided the services and service areas.

FCEOC has multiple comprehensive delivery systems for identifying and enrolling eligible individuals into Federal, State and local benefit programs. The Employment and Training program utilizes an enrollment system that is industry specific and mandated by its funding source, the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board. The system allows for co-enrollment with Fresno County for certain services. The WIC program's system for identifying and enrolling clients for benefits is a closed system that is directly linked to the State's database without access from outside nodes. Fresno CDFI utilizes DownHome Solutions' Loan Management software for enrollment, tracking and reporting. ePLUS uses Microsoft Access and Excel for data management.

For all programs, clients are screened for program eligibilities by having each of them complete an application that also identifies other needs. The staff program assistant conducting the intake and ensures that the application is completed to the best of the applicant's knowledge. Once the application is thoroughly reviewed, staff explains the process for qualifying and delivery of benefits. This process includes additional interviews, reviews and presentation of other existing programs that may benefit the client. For example, the client who comes to FCEOC seeking assistance to pay an energy bill will be presented with information on WIC benefits that she/he may also be eligible for or a client who is seeking a job from Workforce Connection may be referred to the Fresno CDFI for loan to start a business.

FCEOC has program brochures that list its programs and eligibility criteria along with contact information. These brochures are located at the front desks of each of the programs. Similar brochures are available for delegated agencies, the Fresno CDFI and ePLUS.

J) Describe your education and outreach projects to advertise and market the Recovery Act services and outcomes.

FCEOC, Fresno CDFI and ePLUS will conduct workshops on job training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and employment opportunities utilizing experienced staff and partners as partners as additional sources of expertise. It is anticipated that FCEOC, with its long history of serving the low-income populace and success in delivering employment and training services to that population, will conduct the outreach and refer clients

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

to Fresno CDFI and ePLUS. For additional information on outreach, advertising and marketing of the products and services made possible by the ARRA, please see part B) above.

Section VII - Energy Coordination

For each question in this section, provide a comprehensive narrative of what plans you have made to date.

A) Describe how your agency has/will establish a mutual referral service agreement with your local energy provider to ensure that clients receive services that support their progress towards achieving self-sufficiency.

FCEOC is the local energy provider for Fresno County. To ensure clients receive services that support their progress toward achieving self-sufficiency, the FCEOC Weatherization Program works in collaboration with the local utility company (PG&E), Richard Health & Associates (RHA), and a locally owned licensed weatherization contractor (Sundowner Insulation) to provide weatherization services. The FCEOC HEAP/ECIP program works in collaboration with utility vendors to provide utility cost assistance to low-income families in Fresno County.

B) Describe the activities your agency will conduct to actively coordinate with the local energy program in employment training and job placement of clients.

As the local energy provider for Fresno County, FCEOC actively coordinates its energy programs with its Employment and Training Program, and the local Fresno County Workforce Investment Board (FCWIB), in employment training and job placement of clients. FCEOC's Employment and Training Program works in collaboration with the FCWIB to assist with recruiting, screening, and training of low-income clients for full-time and long-term employment in the Weatherization program.

Section VIII - Workforce Development Projects and Activities

In this section, provide information on projects or activities that will be funded in part or totally by Recovery Act funds that will be administered by your agency. For each project or activity, include the following: title, cost, an estimate of the number of jobs created or retained, and a description of the project or activity.

A.1) Project/Activity #1

Title	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

A.2) Project/Activity #2

Title	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

A.3) Project/Activity #3

Title	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

A.4) Project/Activity #4

Title	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

Description	N/A
A.5) Project/Activity #5	
Title	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

In this section, provide information on projects or activities that will be funded in part or totally by Recovery Act funds that will be carried out by a delegate agency or other service provider pursuant to a subcontract with Recovery Act funds. For each project or activity include the following: title, subcontractor name, cost, an estimate of the number of jobs created or retained, and a description of the project or activity.

B.1) Subcontractor Project/Activity #1

Title	Job Creation & Retention Through Small and Micro-Businesses
Subcontractor	Fresno Community Development Financial Institution (Fresno CDFI)
Cost	\$1,000,000
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # 54 <input type="checkbox"/> Retained # 75

Description

Fresno CDFI, established in 2008 by FCEOC and certified by the U.S. Treasury as a "Community Development Financial Institution," provides financial products suitable to its low-income target population in Fresno County by offering the following produces services:

- Business loans to finance start-up costs, working capital, and equipment;
- Financing for community facilities and consumer loans;
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) as an asset building vehicle through strategic public and private partnerships; and
- Development Services that encompass extensive training in financial literacy, business practices, resource use and development, business planning, and access to economic information.

As such, it provides entrepreneurship opportunities and business training to maintain, strengthen and expand businesses so that they continue to retain employees and create new jobs. Its asset building program offers additional training and resources to enhance the entrepreneurs' chances of success.

The number of jobs created by this subcontractor, during the project period, is expected to be a minimum of 54. The number of jobs retained is higher than those created since the injection of stimulus monies into cash-strapped businesses allow entrepreneurs to remain in business and retain employees who otherwise would have been laid off. It is expected that the total jobs created/retained will be at an average cost of \$7,752.

B.2) Subcontractor Project/Activity #2

Title	Job Creation & Retention Through Community & Economic Development
Subcontractor	Enterprise Plus (ePLUS)
Cost	\$1,839,577
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # 100 <input type="checkbox"/> Retained # 50

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

Description	<p>Enterprise Plus Economic Development Center, Inc. (ePLUS) is a private non-profit, locally-initiated, community development corporation set up by Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (FEOC) in 1992 to assist low-income residents build family economic self-sufficiency through job creation and business development. Enterprise Plus plans to use ARRA funds to provide economic development to low- and moderate-income people in urban and rural areas of Fresno County. By creating new marketing, grant-writing and financial analyst positions, ePLUS will, in collaboration with FCEOC and Fresno CDFI, work with businesses in the community to provide employment opportunities for recently displaced workers by enhancing their skills or retraining them for industries and commercial/farming establishments that exhibit signs of sustained growth during these difficult economic times.</p> <p>Activities from this subcontractor are expected to create/retain a minimum of 150 jobs at an average cost of \$12,264.</p>
--------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

B.3) Subcontractor Project/Activity #3

Title	N/A
Subcontractor	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

B.4) Subcontractor Project/Activity #4

Title	N/A
Subcontractor	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

B.5) Subcontractor Project/Activity #5

Title	N/A
Subcontractor	N/A
Cost	N/A
Est. # of Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Created # <input type="checkbox"/> Retained #
Description	N/A

B.6) If you specified any project/activity in B.1 – B.5, describe the process you will use to select the above subcontractor(s) to provide services funded in part or totally by the Recovery Act funds.

The subcontractors identified B.1 and B.2 (Fresno CDFI and ePLUS) were selected not only because they are an integral part of FCEOC but also due to their experience and expertise in job creation and retention and their abilities to design, implement and deliver on projects of this nature.

In the section below list all projects or activities that will be funded in part or totally by Recovery Act funds, the applicable National Program Indicator (NPI) and a description of the project or activity.

C) Under the regular CSBG program, eligible entities use funds to provide services and activities addressing unemployment, education, better use of available income, housing nutrition, emergency services and/ or health to combat the central causes of poverty. Such services continue to be supportable under the CSBG Recovery Act. *In recognition of the intent of the Recovery Act, agencies are encouraged to support employment*

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

related services and activities that create and sustain economic growth.

<i>NPI</i>	<i>Project or Activity</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.1 Employment	B.1 & B.2	See Section VI—General Plan
1.2 Employment Support	B.1 & B.2	See Section VI—General Plan
1.3 Economic Asset Enhancement & Utilization	B.1 & B.2	See Section VI—General Plan
2.1 Community Improvement & Revitalization	B.1 & B.2	See Section VI—General Plan
4.1 Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnership	B.1 & B.2	See Section VI—General Plan
5.1 Broadening Resource Base	B.1 & B.2	See Section VI—General Plan

D) Provide a description of planned infrastructure investments, the purpose, total cost and the rationale for funding the infrastructure investment with funds made available under the Recovery Act. (Capital Improvements are not allowable costs per P.L. 105-285 Sec. 678F)

Planned infrastructure investments include the following:

1. Upgrading the Agency Information Systems (servers, operating systems and other business applications) to enhance back office information technology (IT) support;
2. Increasing the amount of memory and digital storage space that will be required to add necessary applications for financial management, tracking and reporting outcomes and program related activities, case-management, and the hosting of staff and client accounts and/or profiles;
3. Upgrading and/or redesigning of the agency website;
4. Future-proofing the agency hardware systems for the next 3 to 5 years; and
5. Acquiring workspace and office furnishing for additional staff and other program related needs.

E) Will your agency use a portion or all the Recovery Act funds for administrative costs? Check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Yes, our agency will use a PORTION of the Recovery Act funds for administrative costs.
☐ Yes, our agency will use ALL of the Recovery Act funds for administrative costs.
☐ No, our agency will NOT use any of the Recovery Act funds for administrative costs.

E.1) If you checked one of the “YES” boxes in E, explain how the funds allocated to administrative costs will be tracked to a measurable outcome.

N/A

Section IX - Required Disclosures

For each question in this section, disclose any unresolved findings and/or recommendations, or any legal proceedings.

CSBG Recovery Act Local Plan

A) List all non-CSD funded programs administered by the agency within the past three (3) years that have unresolved findings and/or recommendations or have been terminated as a result of deficiencies.

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (FCEOC) or its subsidiaries, the Fresno CDFI and ePLUS, do not have any programs that have unresolved findings and/or recommendations or have been terminated as a result of deficiencies, in the past 3 years.

B) List all legal proceedings the agency is currently involved in or has been in the past three (3) years. Include a brief description of the proceeding and the outcome. If the proceeding is currently, active provide the status.

The following are the legal proceedings that FCEOC was involved in, in the past 3 years:

1. 2007, FCEOC v. California Sports Equipment. FCEOC had filed a civil suit to recover advance payments made to a vendor for non performance. The case has been mediated with the vendor for the full amount in question.
2. 2006, Gonzales v. FCEOC. A Head Start bus was involved in the fatality of a 1 1/2 year old sibling of a Head Start child that ran in front of the bus. CHP investigation found no fault or violations, but the parents of the deceased child sued the agency. The case was settled by FCEOC's insurance carrier.

Section IX - Barriers

For each question in this section, provide information on potential barriers to your agency's success.

A) Identify any barriers that your agency feels it may face in meeting the requirements of the Recovery Act (i.e., subcontracting, staffing, workforce development, compliance with reporting, performance).

Although there are no "barriers" in meeting the requirements of the Recovery Act, there are challenges. This is "stimulus" funding and expediency is understandable. However, with the volume of funding and required outcomes, coupled with the short timeframes for planning, the CSBG ARRA is extremely challenging. Management and administrative staff are overwhelmed with trying to keep up with all the ARRA information being disseminated, planning the most effective way to spend the money, and responding to the request for information from CSD, local partners, and the general public. Once the funds are received and additional staff hired, meeting the requirements of the Recovery Act will be fairly straightforward.

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission



Helping People. Changing Lives.

Our Mission: "To humely focus all available resources to empower low-income families and individuals working toward the skills, knowledge, and motivation for self-sufficiency."

Notice of Public Hearing

Help make your community
a better place!

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) invites all Fresno County residents to express their concerns and suggest services that could improve the quality of life for low-income families during a public forum.

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Place: EOC Board Room
1920 Mariposa Mall, # 310
Fresno, CA 93721

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, but would like your voice to be heard, please submit your comments via email to cap@fresnoeoc.org.

Public Inspection Notice**Community Services Block Grant American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Local Plan**

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission's CSBG ARRA Local Plan is available for public inspection.

The Local Plan includes projects and activities focused around job creation and retention. It encompasses innovative employment-related services and activities that assist in creating sustainable economic resources in our local community. The Local Plan includes addressing the short-term and long-term economic and employment needs of individuals, families, and communities, with special attention to creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities, in Fresno County

You may inspect the Local Plan by contacting Dennis Bachelor at dennis.bachelor@fresnoeoc.org.